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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,756	01/14/2004	Hajime Kimura	12732-207001 / US6910	1526
26171 7590 01/22/2007 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER PIZIALI, JEFFREY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2629	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/22/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/756,756

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Jeff Piziali

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 27-78, 80 and 81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10, 13-18, 27-78 and 80 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12 and 81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/13/06 & 8/10/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed (on 13 November 2006) in this application after final rejection (mailed 13 July 2006). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 13 November 2006 has been entered.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 27 October 2005. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 11, 12, and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koyama et al (US 2001/0048408 A1).

Regarding claim 11, Koyama discloses a signal line driver circuit [Fig. 1] comprising: a shift register [Fig. 1; First - Third Shift Registers]; a latch circuit [Fig. 1; LAT Portion], electrically connected to the shift register, comprising a plurality of pairs of current sources [Fig. 5B], each of which is configured to receive a set signal [Fig. 5B; Control Signals 1 & 2] and a signal current [Fig. 5B; Input], and to control an output current value [Fig. 5B; Output] corresponding to the signal current (see Pages 5-6; Paragraphs 88-89); and a changing over circuit [Fig. 1; 10a] electrically connected to the plurality of pairs of current sources and a plurality of signal lines [Fig. 1; S001 - S640], wherein the changing over circuit selects one pair of current sources from the plurality of pairs of current sources for electrically connecting to each of the plurality of signal lines, and wherein the set signal is an output of the shift register (see Page 3; Paragraphs 50-53).

Regarding claim 12, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 11; furthermore, Koyama discloses a signal line driver circuit [Fig. 6] comprising: a shift register [Fig. 6; First - Third Shift Registers]; a latch circuit [Fig. 1; Latch Circuit Portion], electrically

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connected to the shift register, comprising: a plurality of pairs of current sources [Fig. 5B], each of which is configured to receive a set signal [Fig. 5B; Control Signals 1 & 2] and a signal current [Fig. 5B; Input], and to control an output current value [Fig. 5B; Output] corresponding to the signal current (see Pages 5-6; Paragraphs 88-89); a first switch (see Fig. 5B) provided between the shift register and each of the plurality of pairs of current sources (see Pages 5-6; Paragraphs 88-89); and a second switch [Fig. 6; 20] (see Page 6; Paragraphs 90-92), and a changing over circuit [Fig. 6; 10c] electrically connected between the plurality of pairs of current sources through the second switch and a plurality of signal lines, wherein the changing over circuit selects one pair of current sources from the plurality of pairs of current sources for electrically connecting to each of the plurality of signal lines, wherein the set signal is an output of the shift register, and wherein the first and second switches are controlled by a latch pulse [Fig. 1; LP] (see Page 3; Paragraphs 50-53).

Regarding claim 81, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claims 11 and 12; furthermore, Koyama discloses a signal line driver circuit [Fig. 1] comprising: a plurality of current source circuits [Fig. 5B], each of which is supplied a first current [Fig. 5B; Input] and supplies a second current [Fig. 5B; Output] corresponding to the first current (see Pages 5-6; Paragraphs 88-89); a plurality of signal lines [Fig. 1; S001 - S640]; and a selector circuit [Fig. 1; 10a] electrically connected between the plurality of current source circuits and the plurality of signal lines, the selector circuit selecting one of the plurality of signal lines to which the second current is supplied (see Page 3; Paragraphs 50-53).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants' arguments filed 13 November 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicants contend, the cited prior art of Koyama et al (US 2001/0048408 A1), "*does not describe or suggest [the newly added subject matter of] a current source configured to receive a set signal and a signal current, and to control an output current value corresponding to the signal current*" (see Page 18 of the 'Amendment in Reply to Action of July 13, 2006' filed 13 November 2006). However, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Koyama discloses a current source [Fig. 5B], which is configured to receive a set signal [Fig. 5B; Control Signals 1 & 2] and a signal current [Fig. 5B; Input], and to control an output current value [Fig. 5B; Output] corresponding to the signal current [Fig. 5B; Input] (see Pages 5-6; Paragraphs 88-89).

By such reasoning, rejection of the claims is deemed necessary, proper, and thereby maintained at this time.

Conclusion

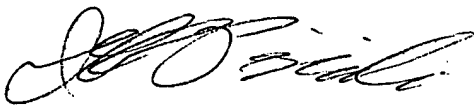
The applicants are hereby notified that the examiner's art unit has recently changed from Art Unit 2673 to Art Unit 2629, please direct all future correspondence accordingly. Thank you.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-7678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30AM - 3PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeff Piziali
12 January 2007